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since America emerged from her colonial existence? And it may well be doubted whether Shakespeare and the early dramatists of England are as much read or as generally admired in their own country as they are on this side of the Atlantic. Many other instances of a similar character occur in these two chapters, and in that on "The Schools of Statesmen"; but we have no space for further illustrations of this moral and intellectual narrowness.

Having traced the progress of nations to their "acme," our author next proceeds to mark their downward course, which he regards as likewise the result of immutable laws; and to this subject and to some connected topics he devotes the second half of his volume. It exhibits the same intellectual characteristics which we have already noticed; and we need not give to it a more detailed examination.

Of Mr. Kingsley's Inaugural Address we can only say that it is a vigorous and manly discourse, which we have read with entire satisfaction. As its title indicates, it is designed in part as a refutation of those mechanical theories which have of late years been so frequently brought forward to explain the course of historical events. Mr. Kingsley proposes to teach history according to a very different theory from that of the Positivists; and we cannot but regard it as a happy augury, that he should thus early have taken his stand in direct antagonism to their views.

7. — *The Journal and Correspondence of WILLIAM, LORD AUCKLAND.*

With a Preface and Introduction by the RIGHT HON. AND RIGHT REV. THE BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS. London: Richard Bentley. 1861. 2 vols. 8vo. pp. xx. and 533, 520.

WILLIAM EDEN, created in 1789 first Lord Auckland, was a man of considerable ability, and for more than thirty years acted a conspicuous part in public life in connection with both English and Continental politics. He was born in 1745, and was educated at Eton and Oxford. At the age of twenty-three he was called to the bar, and four years afterward he entered Parliament, as a follower of Lord North. In 1778 he was sent to America as one of the Commissioners for effecting a reconciliation with the revolted Colonies. On his return to England he was made Chief Secretary for Ireland, which office he held until the overthrow of Lord North's administration. When the Coalition was formed he gave to it a cordial support, though he subsequently joined the party of Mr. Pitt; and in 1785 he was appointed Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to France, in which capacity he

negotiated the celebrated Commercial Treaty with that country. He also successively represented England as ambassador to Spain and to Holland and as a member of the Congress of Antwerp. During the closing years of Pitt's administration he was Postmaster-General, and one of the confidential friends of the prime minister. Yet he did not follow Pitt into retirement when the ministry was broken up in 1801, but continued to hold office under Addington. When Pitt returned to power in 1804 he resigned his seat in the Cabinet, and attached himself to the Grenvilles; and on the formation of the ministry of "All the Talents," he was made President of the Board of Trade. He held this office, however, for only a few months, and after the resignation of his colleagues he withdrew to private life. He died in May, 1814. His character has not escaped severe criticism, and his frequent changes of party have been ascribed to the most sordid motives. In the "Rolliad" unceasing abuse is heaped on him; Horace Walpole says, that he "waded to distinction through dirt"; and it is the unfavorable representation of him contained in the Diaries of Lord Malmesbury, in the Correspondence of George Rose, and in other recent publications, which induced his youngest son to publish these volumes.

They will scarcely produce any important change, however, in the common estimate of Lord Auckland's political character; for they throw little light on those transactions which are most open to criticism. It is true that they include one of the most important portions of his career, — the period between the death of the Marquis of Rockingham, in July, 1780, and the close of the year 1793; but they contain very little that relates to his acceptance of office under Mr. Pitt, and they do not come down to his separation from that minister. On other topics the Correspondence affords much more information, and there are many interesting letters in regard to the formation of the Coalition, the negotiation of the Commercial Treaty, the affairs of Holland, and the early stages of the French Revolution, beside a copious supply of the fashionable gossip then current in London society. Among Lord Auckland's correspondents were his kinsmen Lord Loughborough and the Archbishop of Canterbury, Mr. Pitt and Lord Carmarthen, Lord Sheffield, — the editor of Gibbon's Works, — and Mr. A. Storer; and there are numerous letters from foreign correspondents. About two hundred pages of the second volume are filled by a daily Journal kept by Lord Auckland while he was minister in Spain, and transmitted to England for his mother's perusal. It was evidently not designed for publication, has numerous repetitions, and is crowded with details of no interest except to the person for whose information they were recorded; but it presents a very graphic sketch of court-life in the last months of the

reign of Charles III., and at the beginning of the reign of Charles IV., and is on the whole one of the most attractive parts of the work. The writer had only a very imperfect acquaintance with the Spanish language, and saw only a small part of Spain and very little of the common life of the people; but he has described only what he saw, and his Journal has therefore a permanent historical worth. It shows also that in all the relations of private life Lord Auckland was kind, affectionate, and high-minded, whatever we may think of his conduct as a politician.

8. — *The Greatest of all the Plantagenets. An Historical Sketch.* London: Richard Bentley. 1860. 8vo. pp. xvii. and 457.

THE reign of Edward I., *Scotorum Malleus*, is one of the most memorable epochs in the mediæval history of England; and all the circumstances connected with it — his subjugation of Wales, his wars with Scotland and France, his judicial reforms, and his legislative enactments — combine to show that he was an able, warlike, and politic sovereign. This character he has generally borne among modern historians; but it does not satisfy the writer of the monograph before us. He reminds his readers that most of the historians of the last century who dealt with this period were of Scottish birth, and kindly suggests, that “no native of the Northern kingdom could be expected to write this king’s history in a just and impartial spirit.” Before his admiring view Edward looms up in gigantic proportions, as the greatest of the English kings; and we are gravely told, “As a legislator, Edward stands pre-eminent above all other sovereigns, ancient or modern.” “Legislation, not war, was his chosen path,” while he was at the same time endowed with “pre-eminent military talent.” Adopting this two-fold estimate of Edward, as a statesman and a warrior whose “objects and purposes were at all times just and honorable,” the writer of this biography is throughout his advocate and apologist, and he sums up all with the declaration, “We find in history’s page no nobler man than Edward, none of a greater soul; and, assuredly, we find no one that surpasses him in the attribute of lofty sagacity.” To such extravagance of statement can modern hero-worship run; and as if this were insufficient, we are assured that he exhibited “a constant regard to truth and honor, a conduct regulated in all things by the declared will of God, sagacity and penetration, practical wisdom, undaunted courage, a talent for command, a genius for victory, in a degree of perfection scarcely found in any other human being, and a patient endurance of provocations, which is perhaps without a parallel.”